

gathered, had no public library. The data gathered is shown on the following page. An interpretation of the comparison follows:

1. Circulation per capita of the studied systems closely approximates that of the State, but the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library falls considerably below this. This indicates that the services of the library could be made more available to the people.
2. In circulation per volume, the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library falls behind the area, and the area falls behind the State. While their rating is poor from the statewide standpoint, it ranks fourth among the seven systems compared. If the circulation per capita were increased, it would be expected that this figure would also increase.
3. Volumes per capita is the one field in which the area average exceeds that of the State, but the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library is only sixty per cent of the average for the area. This indicates that there is a shortage of volumes for a library of this size.
4. The areal average of per capita expenditure of local funds for library service is forty-six cents per year. The statewide average is sixty cents. This per capita expenditure in the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library System amounts to twenty-one cents per year, about the cost of a pack of cigarettes! The per capita expenditure from the City, however, is fifty cents.

It is clear that New Bern pays more for library service per person than the Counties. All other things being equal, this would be justified because New Bernians have the library services close at hand. However, all is not equal. New Bern makes an appropriation to the library but has no representation on the Regional Library Board which disposes of these funds. It appears from the above that the lack of funds is the cause of poor library service in the system.

What Must Be Done to Bring Library Service Up to Local and State Standards

The Craven-Pamlico Regional Library service will continue to be substandard until larger appropriations are made by the Counties. Without substantial increases, the library will become stagnant. Each County's appropriation should be not less than fifty cents per capita per year (for comparison, in 1961 these appropriations were Craven County, thirteen cents, and Pamlico County, twelve cents).

Since this report is concerned with library service for New Bern, no recommendations will be made for service outside the City. This does not mean that service is at the optimum in the Counties.